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Sanitary work done.

Examination of premises	2, 433
Examination of closets and cesspools	2, 433
Cesspools cleaned	110
Houses disinfected and cleaned.....	23
Loads of garbage and street sweepings removed.....	3, 177

Immigrants.

Haitians	9	Spaniards	1
Jamaicans	24		
Porto Ricans	6	Total	40

Yellow fever (month of October).

October, 1899, 5 cases, no deaths; October, 1900, no cases; no deaths.

Yellow fever deaths in the month of October.

October, 1888, 30; 1889, 18; 1890, 13; 1891, 1; 1892, 0; 1893, 0; 1894, 16; 1895, 58; 1896, 38; 1897, 25; 1898, 0; 1899, 0; 1900, 0.

*Inspection of immigrants at Santiago de Cuba during the week ended November 17, 1900.***SANTIAGO DE CUBA, November 17, 1900.**

SIR: I herewith submit report of alien steerage passengers at this port during the week ended November 17, 1900.

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immigrants.
Nov. 11	Provisional flag ss. Tomas Brooks.....	Port au Prince, Haiti	5
Nov. 12	British ss. Lugano.....	Corunna, Spain.....	3
Nov. 13	Spanish ss. Pio IX.....	Las Palmas, Canary Islands, and Spanish ports.	28
	Total		36

Respectfully,

R. H. VON EZDORF,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FRANCE.*Report on the municipal disinfecting service of the city of Paris.*

PARIS, FRANCE, November 12, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith report on the municipal disinfecting service of the city of Paris.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

The municipal service of disinfection of the city of Paris has been in existence since 1889, the conseil municipal having on June 29, 1888, voted to equip a station in connection with one of the night refuges of the city. Since that time the service has increased to 4 stations each equipped with Geneste-Herschler steam chambers (the

largest having 3), wagons, atomizers, etc., and situated so as to easily cover the entire city. The service now has a personnel of 150 persons in permanent employ, while the number of dwellings disinfected now averages over 5,000 per month as compared with 10 per month during the first year of its existence, viz, 1889.

These 4 establishments, which include everything that is necessary to disinfect by steam at the stations, and to disinfect at the infected locality all that can not be removed, is under the department of municipal affairs, Prefecture de la Seine, and under the technical direction of L'Inspecteur Général de l'Assainissement et de la Salubrité de l'habitation. Besides there is a permanent commission composed of 12 hygienists to which all scientific questions on the subject are submitted.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Martin, the inspector-general, I had the pleasure of visiting the principal station, 6 Rue des Recollets, and witnessed all the operations for over two hours, including here, of course, only the disinfection of movable articles and the preparation for the squads which disinfect outside.

The station is divided into 2 entirely distinct parts, separated by a thick wall, and in the large disinfecting room by a metallic partition. On the left is the infected side, on the right the disinfected, and in front of both, the living quarters of the chief of the station (A. A. fig. 1).

Between the 2 sides there is no means of communication except through these living quarters and through a narrow hall, K. L. K., where the lockers, shower-baths, and dressing-room for the employees are placed.

The street entrance to the infected side, closed by large double doors, allows the wagons to enter a large court, whence they drive under a shed and unload directly on to tables in the disinfecting room. As shown in fig. 1, this room contains one end of the steam chambers as well as washing tanks (Q), a washing machine, and centrifugal dryer. On the infected side are also stables and sheds (G and F) for the wagons used in transporting the articles to be disinfected, and a kitchen (H).

On the noninfected side are the office (C), drying rooms (D), repair shop (R), stables and sheds for wagons transporting disinfected articles (F), a kitchen (H), large court with shed under which wagons are loaded, and the disinfecting room. This latter contains all of the steam chambers, except the ends projecting through the partition, the necessary boiler piping, tables, etc.

The steam chambers are of the ordinary Geneste-Herschel pattern and are thus operated:

All material soiled with blood, pus, or fecal matter is scrubbed and washed, and afterwards steamed together with unstained articles.

The steam chamber being heated constantly by means of a steam coil, the infected side door is opened after the other is closed, and the carriage loaded in this way. First, all the metal parts are covered with a large piece of linen cloth and each batch of articles hung or folded over the inner frames is wrapped on the same. By this means close folding, running of colors from one object to another, and wetting by water of condensation is largely avoided.

After the door is closed steam is turned on and in a few seconds attains a pressure of seven-tenths of an atmosphere, which is considered to equal 115° C. This pressure is left five minutes, when it is shut off, the exhaust opened, and the pressure allowed to fall. The pressure is then again turned on and this repeated three times, the entire process requiring about twenty minutes.

After the carriage is drawn out into the disinfected side, the articles are immediately taken one at a time out into the open air, the mattresses and large articles extended singly on racks, and the thinner articles such as blankets, curtains, etc., especially if of silk or velvet, are immediately unfolded and well shaken generally by 2 men who at the same time can extend the cloth without letting it touch the ground; afterwards, the articles are carefully folded and placed on the racks.

I would especially call attention to this very simple process. Although no exhaust is used and no time allowed for dry heat after the steam is turned off, the small articles are perfectly dry after some seconds' shaking, and the large objects, such as mattresses, are dry, at least outside, after ten to twenty minutes on the racks in the open air. All these things are left until the next day on the racks of the drying room. (Fig. 2.)

I had the good fortune to see the effects from a room of one of the best hotels go through this process. Among other things were a pair of heavy, brocaded silk curtains of a pale-green tint. These had been placed on top of the carriage, but were hot and damp, as is always the case. They were taken outside immediately by two men, stretched to full length and shaken violently 7 or 8 times, then carefully folded. I, again, felt them; they were, to the touch, absolutely dry, and all the creases were gone. Of course, this would have been impossible if they had been allowed to become wet in places, as nearly always happens when the objects come in contact with metal rods or

baskets while subjected to live steam, but the practice of using a large linen cloth, as above described, obviates this objection.

For the technical control of the disinfection each chamber is connected by a small tube to a register with moving pen and revolving drum carrying a chart. The horizontal lines 1 to 7 on the charts each represents one-tenth atmospheric pressure, and the perpendicular lines represent five minutes in the revolution of the drum.

These charts, which can be removed only by the chief of the station and are sent each day to the inspector-general, give a perfect guarantee that each steaming has been done as directed.

Another ingenious instrument (fig. 3) is used in the experiments on temperatures obtained within the chamber. As will be seen, it is a revolving drum and registering needle of the same pattern and size as the one mentioned above, but the needle is moved by a thermometer, and the whole is inclosed in a metal case, the entire apparatus then being 18 to 20 inches long. There are also 2 mercurial maximum thermometers on each side of the main thermometer to act as controls. By means of cases or covers made of wadding covered with canvas (fig. 4) the conditions at the center of a mattress 10, 20, 30, and 40 centimeters thick can be imitated, and a record made of the temperatures there obtained at all periods of the process.

Outside the station the following is the régime: Information of rooms, etc., requiring disinfection—not only after the so-called contagious diseases, but all serious illnesses and where the conditions are unsanitary—is obtained from physicians who are supplied with books of franked postal cards (Exhibit A), from the ambulance service, from the prefecture of police, the mayors of the various arrondissements, and finally from the interested individuals themselves. Immediately an inspector goes from the nearest station to the place mentioned, sees the owner, presents the advantages of disinfection and has him sign a paper consenting to the operation. A closed wagon, with at least 2 men besides the driver, and armed with large canvas sacks, large atomizer, sponges, solutions of bichloride of mercury (1-1000) and of sulphate of copper, then goes to the house. The uniforms are taken off and left with the driver and the white canvas working suits put on. In the house first all articles to be steamed are put in the large sacks; a list is made in duplicate on a regular blank (Exhibit B); 1 of these is given to the owner as a receipt while the other goes to the station with the goods. Next the entire room is sprayed or scrubbed, according to its condition. Water-closets and utensils that have been used by the patient are disinfected with a 5 per cent solution of sulphate of copper. Next the disinfectors spray themselves thoroughly and carry the sacks and apparatus to the wagon, change back to their uniforms, putting their working suits in a special sack, and proceed to the station.

It may also be mentioned that these disinfectors are supposed to get all the sanitary information possible regarding each house visited, especially general sanitary conditions, what water is used, manner of disposing of sewage, if in vaults, when last cleaned, condition of closets, age, profession, etc., of invalid, if smallpox if he was vaccinated and when. These facts are entered on the back of a card—the face is the disinfection record—which is added to the general record kept in the card-catalogue style.

It is also interesting to note that this disinfection is not compulsory, and yet, in 1899, the tenth year of this service, 64,100 disinfections were done, besides the clothes of persons entering the municipal night asylum—all of which are disinfected each night.

In closing, I add a chart comparing the number of deaths from contagious diseases in Paris with the number of disinfections done. This is taken from the report of Dr. A. J. Martin, to whom I am indebted for all the attached cuts and much of the information in this report.

GERMANY.

Report of plague in South Africa.

[Clipping from Berliner Tageblatt, November 16, 1900—Sent by P. A. Surg. J. B. Greene.]

The plague has now also broken out in South Africa. According to a dispatch of Reuter's Agency from Cape Town an epidemic disease has broken out in Szinyoka in the vicinity of King Williams Town which is assumed to be plague. It has appeared among the members of the family of a man recently returned from the works depot on the Modder River. Eight persons are sick; of these, 3 have already died; the fourth is in a dying condition. The colonial secretary states that he has hardly any doubt that it is the bubonic plague. Up till now the disease has